

material added to the nest, I supposed it was abandoned, and neglected to give it more attention. My surprise can be well imagined when on April 6 I saw both parents at the nest, and a good foundation for the nest laid. The first part of March was warm, the temperature rising at one time to 91° F. in the shade. Later in the month seven inches of rain fell, with much cloudy and some freezing weather. Twice the temperature fell to 25° and the leaves were killed. Up to date, April 6, it has not risen to 80° in this month.

That temperature may affect the time of nesting seems almost proven in this case, and yet a set of Crow's eggs taken April 2 was so far advanced in incubation that it was difficult to extract the embryo. A set of Plumbeous Chickadee's (*Parus carolinensis agilis*) eggs of same date were in advanced incubation; but as these birds build in holes and line with fur, they are well able to endure a sixty-six degree change of temperature. Will some one tell us what is the accepted opinion of oölogist concerning temperature affecting nidification?—G. H. RAGSDALE, *Gainesville, Texas.*

Change of Habits in our Native Birds.—It would be as interesting, from an evolutionary point of view, to note any change in the habits of an animal, any change in the way it adjusted itself to its environment, as to note the change in its bodily form or structure. It seems to me that such a change is taking place with the English Sparrow. A dozen or more years ago when these aliens first became a feature in our fauna it seemed probable that our native birds would soon be entirely driven from the neighborhood of our cities and villages. Our Robins, Bluebirds, Catbirds, Grossbeaks, Sparrows, Martins and the like were mobbed, driven from their food and nests and generally taught to believe, with Charles Sumner, that "life is a serious business." In this section, at any rate, a change has gradually taken place. Either our native birds have unexpectedly developed powers of resistance at first unsuspected or the pugnacity of the English Sparrows has diminished, for certainly our own songsters have not been driven away but on the contrary seem as numerous as they were twenty years ago. For the past two or three years, since my attention was first called to the matter, I have seen but little if any persecution of our native birds by the foreign Sparrows; on the contrary, our own birds are now often the aggressors, and if they do not indulge in persecution themselves, are adepts at defence. Very commonly a Jay, Robin, or Catbird will from pure mischief hustle a flock of Sparrows into desperate flight. In and about Rockford, Ill., a place of 30,000 inhabitants, the native birds have not been so numerous in twenty years as in the two or three years just passed. The conditions of the adjustment between the Sparrows and our commoner birds have changed to some extent, it seems. As has been noted before, the abundance of the Sparrows may serve to explain the increase in the numbers of the smaller birds of prey, — with us notably the Screech Owl.—F. H. KIMCOLL, *Rockford, Ill.*